

While Texas beat Oklahoma, they were snubbed for the Big 12 Conference title game, which meant they had no chance to play for the National Championship. In addition to this, many felt Colt McCoy should have been given more consideration for the Heisman trophy. With everything that the Longhorns had to endure, it could have been enough for any team to just throw in the towel and give up. However, Coach Mack Brown kept his team focused and committed to their motto, "Texas Fight." UT went on to play a very good Big 10, Ohio State team in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. In a thrilling game, Colt McCoy led a "Heismanesque" last minute drive and connected with Senior Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown that gave Texas the win, 24–21.

You need to only look at the upbringing of quarterback Colt McCoy and receiver Jordan Shipley to see the character the Longhorns are made of. Both Colt and Jordan's fathers were teammates and roommates while playing football at my Alma Mater, Abilene Christian University. Brad McCoy was a receiver and Bob Shipley was a running back. After Bob and Brad graduated from ACU they kept in touch, raising their two families together. The two families regularly attended church together, went fishing, and other family activities. Both Brad McCoy and Bob Shipley instilled work ethic, faith in God, and leadership qualities into their two boys.

The character of these two resonates through the whole Longhorn team. They are Texas—a team committed to each other, their coaches, and the University.

Madam Speaker, University of Texas football is as much of a part of America as the flag and apple pie. It is almost a religion in the burnt orange state of Texas.

I commend the Longhorns and coaches for a great season. I look forward to another successful year in '09 along with the 59th win over Oklahoma. Hook'em Horns!

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING THE FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS

##### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about an important resolution that I have reintroduced that honors the legacy of the Four Immortal Chaplains who sacrificed their lives over 65 years ago. (H. Res. 86)

On February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army Transportation Service troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic by a German submarine. Of the 900 passengers and crew, 597 were military personnel, and four of those men were the ship's chaplains—Methodist chaplain George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed minister Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. Each chaplain distributed life vests as the ship went down and then gave up their own when supply ran out. As the ship went down into the icy waters, survivors in the nearby rafts could see the four chaplains with their arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. According to eyewitnesses, the chaplains were heard offering prayers for the soldiers who had died in the wreckage.

In 1948, a stamp was issued honoring these four chaplains as true examples of "Interfaith in Action." They were recognized by Congress and the President with a special Medal of Honor for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith.

The heroism of these brave men should serve as an example of love for others without regard to race, religion or creed, and an acknowledgment of the potential for human compassion. This message rings true today more than ever!

That is why I have reintroduced a resolution, which remembers the Four Immortal Chaplain and requests the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, and the people of the United States to observe a day in their honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

It is important their story of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness is heard and should guide the way we live out lives with compassion for others, in the spirit of the four Chaplains. I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Four Immortal Chaplains by supporting this important resolution.

#### IN HONOR OF THE REV. DR. FRANK WITMAN

##### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my longtime friend, the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman, who is being honored this week with the prestigious Simi Valley, California, Chamber of Commerce Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

None are more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Witman.

Dr. Witman planted himself in Simi Valley when he arrived in the summer of 1969 to assume the post of senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. The third-generation United Methodist Church minister immediately anchored his roots, which grew and spread with every year.

Dr. Witman served on the board of directors of the Simi Valley Rotary Club, which he joined in mid-1969, and was the recipient of the Paul Harris Award, one of the highest honors Rotary bestows upon an individual.

In 1972, he led the Simi Valley Ministerial Association to join with the Businessmen Against the Card Club Ordinance to defeat organized gambling in Simi Valley.

Six years later, Dr. Witman founded the chaplain program for the Simi Valley Police Department and, for more than 30 years, he has served as the department's senior chaplain. Dr. Witman has provided comfort, counseling, prayers, and support during most of the city's traumatic and tragic events, including the untimely death of Officer Michael Clark. His support of the city and its police officers earned him the department's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997, the department's Lifetime Service Award in 2007, and recognition from the Simi Valley City Council in 2008.

Dr. Witman also was a charter member of the Steering Committee for Leadership Simi Valley; a charter member of the Simi Valley Hospital Board Strategic Planning Committee; Simi Valley Hospital's 1995 Volunteer Chap-

lain of the Year; and an 8-year president of the Samaritan Center for the homeless.

In 1990, I had the honor of nominating Dr. Witman to offer a prayer to open a session of the House of Representatives as guest Chaplain, which he did on May 2, 1990.

Dr. Witman retired as Senior Pastor of the Simi Valley Unified Methodist Church in 1997, but he never ended his ministry, fellowship, service, and friendship to the people of the city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman for his nearly four decades of selfless service to the community, and will join the Simi Valley community in congratulating him for earning the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and especially in support of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, IN.

Madam Speaker, Catholic schools are an incredible asset to our country. Throughout much of our history, Catholic schools have provided a solid moral and intellectual education to millions of students, and served as a crucial stabilizing force for many immigrants to our great Nation. Catholic schools have been able to build communities of character in a way unique to much of the rest of our educational system, testified to by the untold amounts of service that have been performed by their graduates.

Bishop Luers is no different. In its mission statement, Bishop Luers pledges to equip each graduate with the spiritual, academic, and social tools they need to serve God and others—that they may be light to the world, so that, in the words of Matthew, others "may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Madam Speaker, Bishop Luers does this incredibly well. The school has many successful graduates, an excellent graduation rate, and impressive athletic achievements. In fact, Bishop Luers has been named one of the Nation's leading Catholic high schools by the national Catholic High School Honor Roll. The men and women of Bishop Luers who each day serve students and families deserve our deep gratitude.

Let me also take a moment briefly to note the incredible work Catholic schools have done and continue to do for minorities, often non-Catholic, and often for very low cost. Indeed, in many poor neighborhoods, the Catholic school is the only good option available to parents. In this way, Catholic schools play a crucial role in the pursuit of justice by building communities that respect the dignity of all people. They deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Bishop Luers and other Catholic schools across the country. It is no exaggeration to say that such schools are critical to the future of our country.